

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 EA-10 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 OES-07 ACDA-12 NRC-05 HA-05 EB-08
COME-00 /146 W

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O 071712Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0172
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 07074

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, UR, ET
SUBJECT: COMMUNIQUE ON MENGISTU VISIT TO MOSCOW
SUMMARY: MENGISTU APRIL 3-5 VISIT TO MOSCOW IS ANNOUNCED
BY PUBLICATION OF LENGTHY, BUT BLAND COMMUNIQUE IN APRIL
7 PRAVDA. DOCUMENT EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF "GOOD
NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS" IN HORN, BUT DOES NOT MENTION
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UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF S VIET AND CUBAN MILITARY
PRESENCE, ERITREANS, AND DJIBOUTI. END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 7 PRAVDA CARRIES TEXT OF JOINT SOVIET-ETHIOPIAN
COMMUNIQUE ON APRIL 3-5 "WORKING" (AND HITHERTO SECRET)
VISIT OF PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU TO MOSCOW. ACCORDING
TO COMMUNIQUE, TALKS WITH KOSYGIN WERE CONDUCTED IN

ATMOSPHERE OF "CORDIALITY AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING."
BREZHNEV, WHO WAS ON HIS TOUR OF THE SOVIET FAR EAST,
IS SAID TO HAVE HAD A "WARM, FRIENDLY" TELEPHONE CON-
VERSATION WITH MENGISTU ON APRIL 5.

2. ASSUME DEPT. HAS TEXT OF LENGTHY COMMUNIQUE.
SUMMARY FOLLOWS:

-- MENGISTU EXPRESSED "DEEP GRATITUDE" TO SOVIET PEOPLE,
CC CPSU, AND PERSONALLY TO BREZHNEV FOR "DECISIVE
SUPPORT AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE" TO ETHIOPIAN
REVOLUTION.

-- SOVIET SIDE ATTACHED GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO "PRO-
GRESSIVE TRANSFORMATION" OF ETHIOPIA, ITS VICTORIES
OVER INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REACTION, AND TO "ANTI-
IMPERIALIST POSITION" OF "NEW ETHIOPIA."

-- BOTH SIDES SOUNDLY AND REPEATEDLY CONDEMNED EFFORTS
OF IMPERIALISTS AND REACTIONARIES TO STIR UP FRATRICIDAL
CONFLICT AND ESTABLISH CONTROL OVER RED SEA REGION.
-- BOTH SIDES CAME OUT FOR QUICK ESTABLISHMENT OF DURABLE
PEACE IN HORN TO BE BASED ON: (A) REPUDIATION OF
TERRITORIAL CLAIMS; (B) RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, TERRI-
TORIAL INTEGRITY, NON-VIOLATION OF BORDERS, AND NON-
INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
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-- BOTH SIDES EMPHASIZED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDLY,
GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF HORN
WOULD ASSIST "PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT" OF ALL STATES
AND WOULD ENABLE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN
RED SEA BASIN - "AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY."

3. TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED ON VARIETY OF OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL ISSUES INCLUDING:

-- SOUTHERN AFRICA. THEY DECLARED FIRM AND UNCHANGED
SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, AND
SOUTH AFRICA, CONDEMNED ALL "MANEUVERS" DESIGNED TO
SUBSTITUTE PUPPET REGIMES FOR ELIMINATION OF COLONIALISM
AND RACIAL OPPRESSION, AND DEMANDED "IMMEDIATE ELIMINATION"
OF RACIST REGIME IN RHODESIA AND TRANSFER OF ALL POWER
TO PATRIOTIC FRONT. THEY DEMANDED URGENT WITHDRAWAL OF
S. AFRICA FROM NAMIBIA AND TRANSFER OF POWER TO SWAPO -
"THE GENUINE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA."
WITH REGARD TO S. AFRICA ITSELF, THE TWO SIDES EXPRESSED
SERIOUS CONCERN OVER ALLEGED S. AFRICAN PLANS TO CREATE
NUCLEAR WEAPONS. REALIZATION OF THESE PLANS, THEY
EMPHASIZED, WOULD REPRESENT A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY. THEY AGREED ON NECESSITY OF TAKING

"NEW, ENERGETIC MEASURES", E.G., THROUGH UN IN AGREE-
MENT WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE 32ND UNGA. TWO SIDES
NOTED POSITIVE ROLE OF OAU.

-- MIDDLE EAST. TWO SIDES "STRICTLY CONDEMNED" ISRAELI
AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBANON. EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI "MANEUVERS"
IN CONNECTION WITH SEPARATE TALKS HAVE BEEN A SCREEN FOR
ISRAELI AGGRESSIVE ACTS, THEY SAID. TWO SIDES FELT
THAT PRESENT M.E. SITUATION MADE "CONSOLIDATION AND
STRENGTHENING" OF COOPERATION OF ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES
OF REGION "ESPECIALLY NECESSARY." BOTH SIDES AGREED ON
WHAT IS BASIC SOVIET POSITION ON M.E. SETTLEMENT,
I.E., WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS, REALIZATION OF
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AND SECURITY OF ALL STATES IN
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REGION. THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED, SAID COMMUNIQUE, ONLY

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O 071712Z APR 78

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0173

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 07074

ON BASIS OF "COLLECTIVE EFFORTS IN FRAMEWORK OF GENEVA
CONFERENCE" WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL INTERESTED SIDES
INCLUDING PLO.

4. FINAL THIRD OF COMMUNIQUE CONSISTS OF MUTUAL AGREE-
MENT ON USUAL SOVIET LIST OF INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT
PROPOSALS. THERE IS ALSO BLAND REFERENCE TO IMPORTANCE
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OF UN AND TO IMPORTANCE OF RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

5. BILATERAL RELATIONS RECEIVED SPECIAL MENTION.
AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON: (A) EXPANSION OF CONTACTS AND
TIES BETWEEN STATE AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTI-
TUTIONS; (B) CREATION OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL SOVIET-
ETHIOPIAN COMMISSION ON QUESTIONS OF ECONOMIC, SCIEN-
TIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRADE; (C) CARRYING
OUT OF REGULAR CONSULTATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS.

6. COMMENT. OF MOST INTEREST, OF COURSE, IS WHAT IS
NOT MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE, I.E., SOVIET-ETHIOPIAN
APPROACH TOWARD ERITREAN PROBLEM AND TOWARD SOVIET-CUBAN
MILITARY PRESENCE. WE ASSUME THAT THESE TWO ISSUES
WERE THE MAJOR POINTS OF FOCUS DURING THE TALKS. WE
ALSO NOTE THAT NOTHING IS SAID ABOUT DJIBOUTI DESPITE
RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET-DJIBOUTI
RELATIONS.

7. WHILE IMPERIALISTS AND INTERNATIONAL REACTION TAKE
THEIR LUMPS, THE COMMUNIQUE SECTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST
CURIOUSLY OMITTS ANY SUCH REFERENCE. IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CONTEXT WE NOTE SOVIET REAFFIRMATION OF ITS CONTINUED
INTEREST IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. RECENT COMMUNIQUE
ON ARAB VISITORS TO MOSCOW HAVE OMITTED SUCH REFERENCES.

8. IN GENERAL, THE COMMUNIQUE REPRESENTS A BLAND, RATHER
OPAQUE DOCUMENT, IN WHICH, OTHER THAN THE VAGUE CALL TO
ESTABLISH PEACEFUL RELATIONS AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE
HORN AND THE SPECIFIC INTENT TO TAKE ON THE SOUTH AFRICANS
OVER THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE, THERE IS REMARKABLY LITTLE
TO SUGGEST THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE ETHIOPIANS-SOVIETS-

CUBANS ON THE UNDERLYING AND MOST SIGNIFICANT ISSUES OF
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